

REMARKS

Claims Amendments and Allowable Claims

Claims 10, 12, 37, 40, 42, 46-48, 82 and 85 have been amended, and claims 1-9, 13, 15-23, 26-36, 44-45, 54-59, 61-67, 69, 71-72, 78-81, 83-84 and 86-98 have been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer of any previously claimed subject matter. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute the subject matter of the cancelled claims and any previously claimed subject matter in one or more divisional or continuation applications. Applicants have co-filed a continuation application including the subject matter of the cancelled claims. A copy of the claims as amended is enclosed in the attached Appendix A for the Examiner's convenience.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 10, 12, 37-42, 46-48, 82 and 85 are allowable if rewritten into independent form. The claims have been amended into independent form, and are accordingly considered to be in condition for allowance.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103

Claims 1-9, 13, 15-23, 26-36, 44-45, 54-59, 61-67, 69, 71-72, 78-81, 83-84, 86-90 and 97-98 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103. Claims 1-9, 13, 15-23, 26-36, 44-45, 54-59, 61-67, 69, 71-72, 78-81, 83-84 and 86-98 were cancelled without prejudice. Applicants therefore request that this rejection be withdrawn.

U.S. Patent No. 5,766,520

Enclosed is a copy of Bronshtein, U.S. Patent No. 5,766,520, for the Examiner's attention. This patent is submitted for the Examiner's attention for consideration of possible 102 (g) issues.

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CONCLUSION

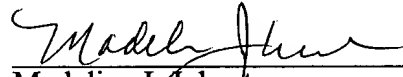
In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the claims are in condition for acceptance and such action is respectfully requested.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket no. 263742001001. However, the Assistant Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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